

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TAIPEI IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 208315

EXDIS

FOLLOWING REPEAT STATE 208315 SENT PEKING HONG KONG DATED
SEPT 2.

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 208315

EXDIS

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS:SCUL, CH

SUBJECT: MAYORS DELEGATION TO PRC

1. ON AUGUST 30, SAN JUAN MAYOR ROMERO-BARCELO TOLD
SELECTED REPORTERS ABOUT THE DIFFICULTY WHICH HAS ARISEN
OVER HIS PARTICIPATION IN THE MAYORS DELEGATION TO THE
PRC. RESULTING UPI STORY RECEIVED LOW-KEY INNER PAGE
PLAY IN WASHINGTON POST AUGUST 30 AND NEW YORK TIME
AUGUST 31. ACCORDING TO BOTH VERSIONS, ROMERO-BARCELO
TOLD PRESS THAT THE PRC HAD REFUSED TO ACCEPT HIM BECAUSE
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OF ITS SUPPORT FOR THE PUERTO RICAN INDEPENDENCE MOVEMENT.

HE SAID THAT THE OTHER MAYORS, LED BY ALIOTO OF SAN FRANCISCO AND LANDRIEU OF NEW ORLEANS (PRESIDENT OF U.S. CONFERENCE OF MAYORS) WERE TAKING THE STAND THAT IF ROMERO-BARCELO COULD NOT GO, NOBODY WOULD. ROMERO ALSO REPORTEDLY REJECTED ANY COMPROMISE WHEREBY THE CHINESE WOULD RECEIVE HIM SOLELY IN HIS CAPACITY AS PRESIDENT OF NATIONAL LEAGUE OF CITIES, SAYING "EITHER I GO AS MAYOR OF SAN JUAN AND AS A PUERTO RICAN OR NOT AT ALL." NY TIMES HEADED STORY "US MAYORS TRIP TO CHINA OFF." POST VERSION CITED ROMERO AS SAYING THAT STATE DEPARTMENT IS WORKING ON THE PROBLEM AND A FINAL DECISION IS EXPECTED EARLY THIS WEEK.

2. DEPARTMENT IS REPLYING AS FOLLOWS TO PRESS INQUIRIES: "WE UNDERSTAND THAT THE MATTER IS BEING HANDLED BY THE SPONSORING ORGANIZATIONS -- THE NATIONAL COMMITTEE ON US-CHINA RELATIONS AND THE CONFERENCE OF MAYORS -- WHO HAVE TAKEN THE MATTER UP WITH THE CHINESE AUTHORITIES AND ARE AWAITING A REPLY. OBVIOUSLY, THEREFORE, WE HAVE NO COMMENT AT THIS TIME." SHOULD USLO OR HONG KONG BE QUERIED BY PRESS ON THIS MATTER, YOU SHOULD FOLLOW THIS LINE. ROBINSON UNQUOTE ROBINSON

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